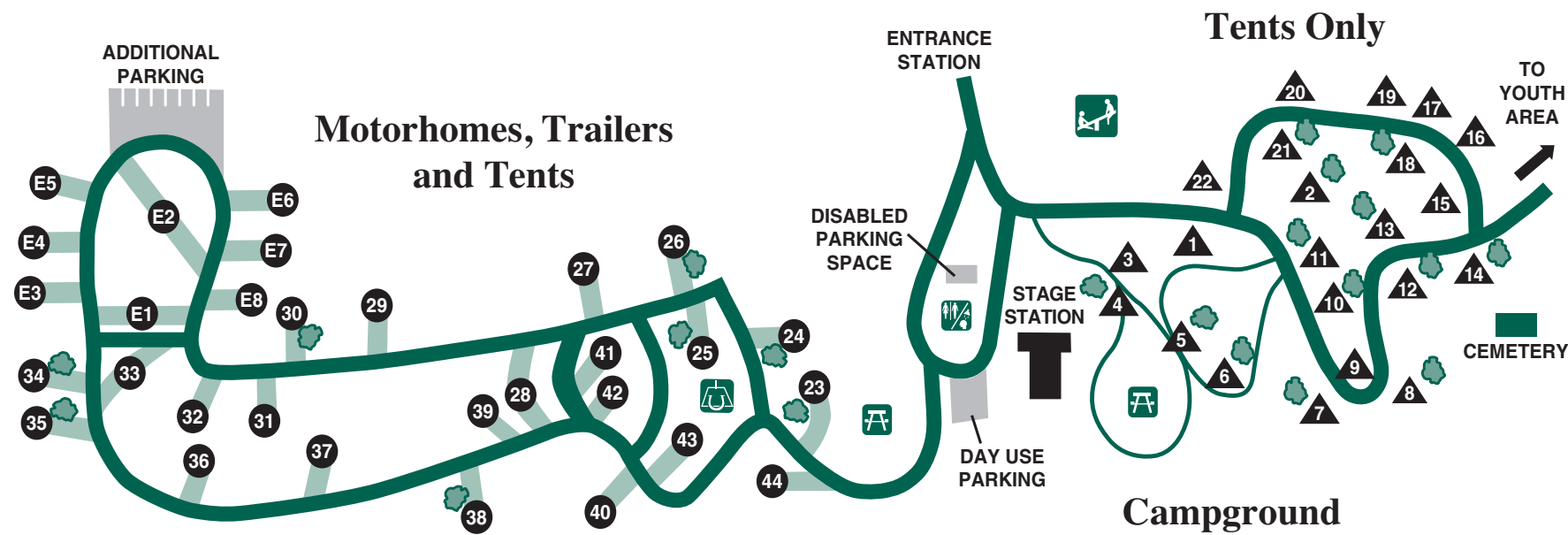
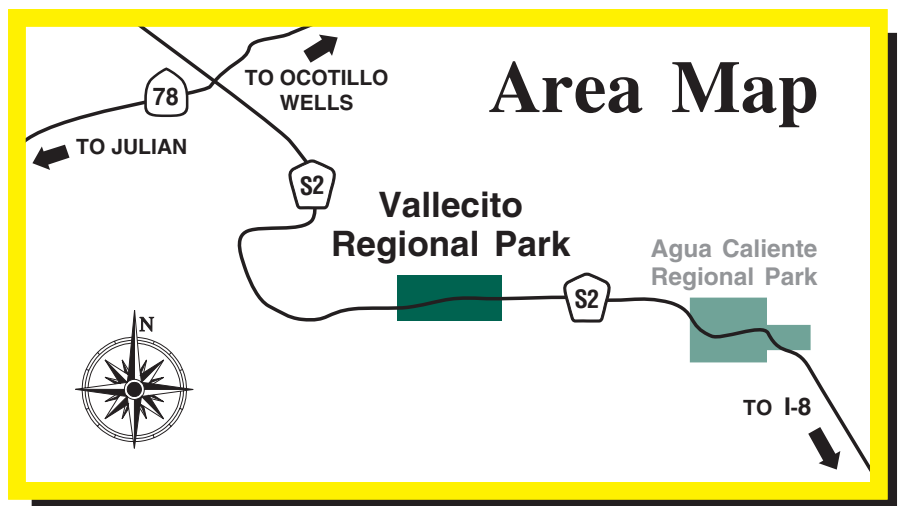


# Vallecito Regional Park



## Legend

- E# Equestrian Site
- Non-hookup Sites
- Tent Site Only
- Restroom with Showers
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Horseshoes
- Partial Shade



**NOTE:** Camping in the park is contingent upon guests maintaining their immediate camping area in a safe and clean condition and complying with all park rules. Failure to comply will result in a suspension of camping privileges and loss of prepaid fees.

## RULES & REGULATIONS

- CAMPFIRES:** Must be confined to existing stoves or fire rings. See ranger for current campfire rules. No fires after 11 P.M..
- PETS:** Pets are permitted if they are properly restrained and under the control of the owner. Dogs must be licensed, restrained on a leash not longer than six feet, and attended at all times.
- WASTE WATER:** Please dispose of all waste water in an approved dump station, never on the ground.
- VEGETATION & NATURAL FEATURES:** All plants, animals, natural features, and archaeological resources are fully protected and may not be damaged, injured, or removed. Please check with your ranger for firewood — he or she generally has a supply to sell for campfires. Please do not gather it from within the park.
- TREES:** Do not tie or hang ropes, wire, or tents to trees. Do not drive nails, screws, or staples into trees.
- GENERATORS:** Use of generators is prohibited.
- NOISE:** To ensure each park guest's pleasure and peace, quiet hours are from 10 P.M. to 8 A.M. Of course, excessive noise and loud music is discouraged at all times.
- FIREARMS & WEAPONS:** Firearms, fireworks, and weapons are not permitted in County Parks.
- YOUTH:** All persons under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a legally responsible adult with medical authorization for each child while camping in the park.
- ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** Alcoholic beverages are permitted providing the alcohol content does not exceed 20%.

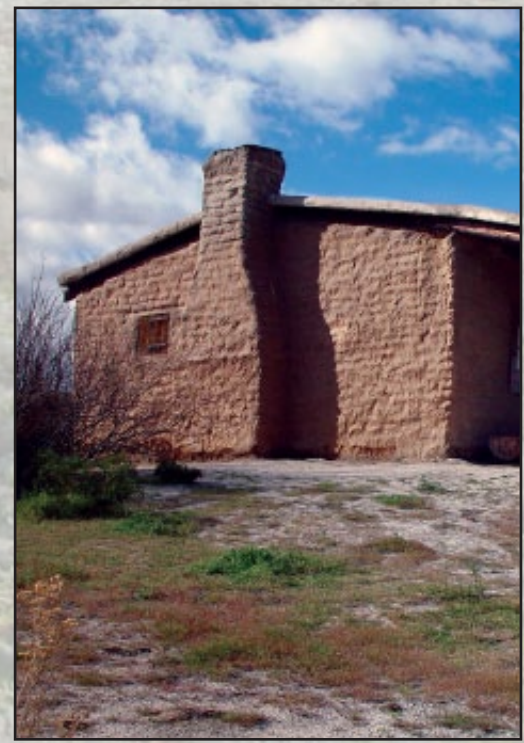
## INFORMATION

 COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
**Department of Parks and Recreation**  
5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 410  
San Diego, CA 92123  
**Reservations & Information:**  
Toll Free • (877) 565-3600  
Local • (858) 565-3600

Visit us at [www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org)

# VALLECITO REGIONAL PARK

A San Diego County  
Camping Park



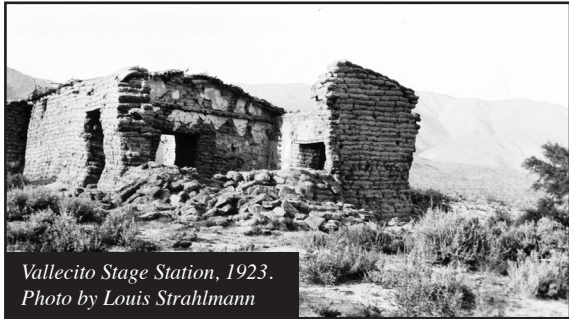
 **PARKS AND RECREATION**  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
[www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org)



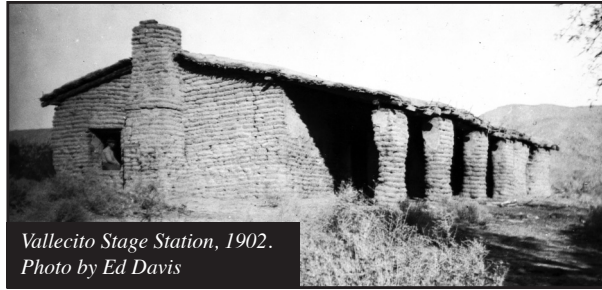
# Welcome to Vallecito Regional Park

When an East Coast traveler saw Vallecito for the first time in 1859, he described it as a “beautiful green spot - a perfect oasis in the desert.” A portion of that “little valley,” as its Spanish name is translated, has been preserved as a county park built around a reconstruction of the Historic Vallecito Stage Station. The park offers the modern-day camper a quiet place in which desert secrets reveal themselves to those who take the time to watch and listen.

That 19th Century traveler was just one in a long line of appreciative visitors. From the Native Americans who lived here for thousands of years, to the Spanish conquistadors, and explorers and soldiers such as Kit Carson and General Stephen Kearny, as well as emigrants in the early part of this century who still traveled by wagon, Vallecito has always been a green refuge in an often harsh land. Countless generations of Native Americans camped here before the arrival of the new Americans in the 19th Century, and these Newcomers left an indelible impression.



Vallecito Stage Station, 1923.  
Photo by Louis Strahlmann

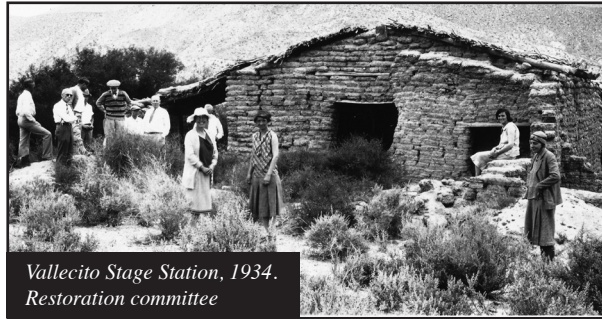


Vallecito Stage Station, 1902.  
Photo by Ed Davis

The Vallecito Stage Station is a testament to one of the most dynamic decades of this area’s history. First used as an army supply depot, then as a rest stop on the “Jackass Mail” route between San Antonio and San Diego, the building was busiest during the lifetime of the Butterfield Overland Stage (1858-61). The stage line carried mail and passengers over 2,800 miles separating Tipton, Missouri and San Francisco in 25 days. It was said to be the longest stage ride in the world.

Stage stations scattered along the route offered the weary passengers a brief meal and rest as the horses were changed. Then it was on to the next stop on the 24-hour-a-day journey. Vallecito was a favorite station since it was the first place with greenery that travelers saw after crossing the hostile mail route in the southern desert.

In 1934 the County purchased the building, which had been rebuilt using original materials. But it's not only human history that is preserved here. The extensive vegetation in the small valley supports



Vallecito Stage Station, 1934.  
Restoration committee



Vallecito Stage Station, present day.



abundant wildlife, including foxes, coyotes, and many reptiles. Birds are especially attracted to the mesquite and acacia thickets; among the avian residents are desert specialties such as cactus wrens and black throated sparrows.

## Facilities

Vallecito is a quiet alternative to some of the busier desert campgrounds around the area. One attraction is the weather, which averages about 10 degrees cooler than nearby Agua Caliente. The 44 primitive campsites at Vallecito have tables, fire rings, and barbecue stoves, and water is available at scattered locations throughout the campground.

An equestrian area and one youth area offers additional camping possibilities at the 71-acre park. Children will enjoy the tot lot, and

picnickers will want to make use of a large covered picnic area. Vallecito also welcomes pets on a leash.

The vast regional park is a convenient hub to enjoy other desert activities such as miles of hiking at the nearby Agua Caliente Regional Park, just four miles south on S-2, as well as in the neighboring Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Vallecito is open from Labor Day weekend to Memorial Day weekend.